

JOSEPH BROADBENT

Biography from the Lehi Centennial History

Joseph Broadbent, son of John Broadbent and Betty Lees, was born August 26, 1836, in Mill Bottom, Oldham, Lancashire, England. For many generations his forefathers worked in the cotton mills and to this life he was very early assigned. After going to school about one year, he commenced to work in the mills at the age of nine years, working half time, as the law would not permit children under 14 years to work full time. Being the oldest child of the family, which was very poor, he was not permitted any leisure time for further education, except a little at the Sabbath School, where reading and writing were taught.

At the age of 19 years, he married Sarah Dixon, whom he had met at the meetings of the Mormon Church, to which organization he had allied himself about a year previous. When the Mormon elders began proselyting in the neighborhood, considerable opposition was manifest by various members of the family, but eventually the father, mother, and children were all converted to the doctrines set forth by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

On April 11, 1859, Mr. Broadbent and wife set sail for America on the sailing vessel "Wm. Tapscott," in company with 725 emigrating Saints. They arrived in New York May 14th, and at Florence, Nebraska, on the 25th of the month. On the 9th of June they started across the plains in George Rowley's hand cart company, arriving in Salt Lake City September 4, 1859. The latter part of the journey across the plains was very severe, for after being on rations for some time, the food supply was entirely exhausted and the company camped for several days near Devil's Gate waiting for help from the valley, which arrived in time to save them from actual starvation.

Being acquainted with James Taylor of Lehi, who had been one of the missionaries laboring in Oldham, Mr. Broadbent and wife came direct to Lehi, where they have lived ever since. For twenty-eight years he followed the occupation

of farming and mending clocks as a side line. In 1883 with his oldest son, Joseph S., he went into the mercantile business,- founding the firm of Broadbent and Son, which has continued with steady growth to the present.

Mr. Broadbent has been an active Church worker, filling a number of positions with honor. He was a member of the first Old Folks Committee; for many years an active member of the Missionary Fund Committee; and a Sunday School worker for over forty-five years. He is still active in the Sunday School and although he is now in his 77th year, he is seldom absent from his post.

Being of a musical turn of mind, he has always been connected with some musical organization. Thus he has been a member of choirs and bands both in this country and in England. In the early days he was a member of the Utah Militia, serving as bugler of cavalry under Captain Joseph A. Thomas.

His wife dying in 1888, he married Elizabeth Greenwood, June 26, 1889, a daughter of James and Hannah Turner Greenwood, born October 29, 1843, in Haywood, Lancashire, England. For seven years they lived happily together, but on August 14, 1896, he was again left a widower. On April 8, 1897, he married Sarah Lee Fowler, a widow of the late Henry C. Fowler of Salt Lake City, a daughter of George and Sarah Peaker Lee, born December 25, 1852, in Sheffield, England. She had four daughters living from her former marriage: Lilly Lee (Mrs. John J. McAfee), Jennie V. (Mrs. Charles W. Earl), Henrietta (Mrs. Henry C. Allen), and Ruth Pearl (Mrs. John F. Cutler).